

FREE
STENCIL

REDAN

I LOVE TO READ

WITH PULL-OUT
WORKBOOK

BATMAN

INSIDE:



THE
ORIGIN OF
SUPERMAN



This toy complies with EN71 (Toy Safety).
Warning: Stencil not suitable for children
under 3 years. Made in England.
Importer/Manufacturer:
Matthews Promotional Products.
Please retain this information for

EVERY MONTH
№10 £1.15



ACTION



STORIES



ADVENTURE





INTRODUCTION

Here we are again with another issue of **I Love to Read Batman** packed with exciting stories and activities!

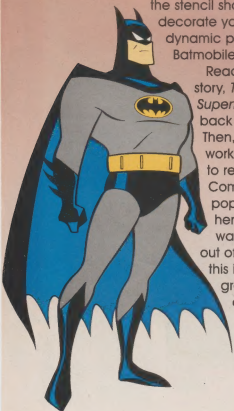
As you can see from this month's cover, **Batgirl** has joined in the battle against crime on the streets of Gotham City. You'll find an extra long, fun and exciting story with her and Robin in *Getaway!* on the next page.

Read on and lose yourself in the story *Slay it with Flowers*. This is truly a dark story — not for the squeamish! A tycoon is mysteriously poisoned. Who by and for what reason? These are the questions Batman sets out to answer.

Then what about having a go with your super **BATMAN STENCIL** from this issue's front cover? Get out your pens, draw around

the stencil shapes and decorate your books with dynamic pictures of the Batmobile!

Read the great story, *The Origin of Superman* at the back of this issue. Then, pull out the workbook section to reveal six of DC Comics' most popular super heroes. They are waiting to burst out of the centre of this issue in our greatest poster ever!



REDAN

I LOVE TO READ

BATMAN™

3 GETAWAY!

Gotham City needs as many crime fighters as possible. So, here we find a new hero in the form of Batgirl, ready to take on the tough and dark side of Gotham.

8 SLAY IT WITH FLOWERS

In another great tale, meet Batman at Horrygan Manor where he must find the cure for a deadly poison before it's too late to save its victim.

12 POSTER

Here is a fantastic poster of six of the best DC super heroes for you to pull out and put up on your wall.

13 BATMAN WORKBOOK

An eight-page pull-out workbook full of puzzles and games especially for you.

22 DYNAMIC DISPATCHES

A gallery of some really great pictures sent in by you, our readers.

24 ODD ONE OUT

This is a special activity page with Batgirl, to test your powers of observation.

25 THE ORIGIN OF SUPERMAN

From issue 2 of **I Love to Read Batman**, you will already know some of Superman's history. Here, however, is a great, illustrated story, to show Superman's humble beginnings!



IN

GETAWAY!

Introducing...BATGIRL!

A new would-be crime fighter was prowling the streets of Gotham City. Her name was **Batgirl**.

No one knew she was really Barbara Gordon, the teenage daughter of Police Commissioner Gordon. She admired Batman's courage and skill and decided to follow in his footsteps.



Barbara and fellow student Dick Grayson would certainly have been surprised if they realised the truth about each other!



One evening, Barbara was walking home from the library...



...when she saw four men breaking into a jewellery store.



Barbara took out her Batgirl costume. The criminals had to be stopped!



Dick Grayson had also witnessed the crime. He quickly changed into Robin and...



But just then...



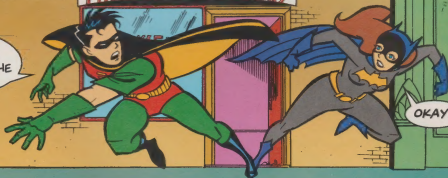
The robbers took advantage of the confusion to make a break for it.

SPLIT UP!
WE CAN LOSE
THEM!

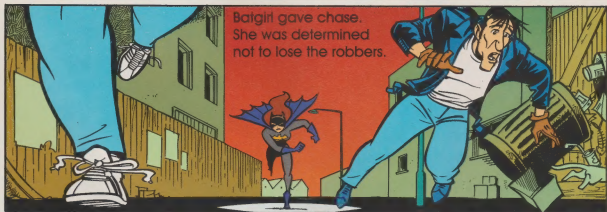


Robin and Batgirl raced after them.

YOU GO
AFTER THOSE
TWO! I'LL GET THE
OTHERS.



Batgirl gave chase.
She was determined
not to lose the robbers.



Robin sprinted after the
other two.





The chase was dangerous. The robbers tried to give Batgirl the slip, but she kept up with them.



Robin's pursuit was just as tough.

GET LOST, KID!

KAPOW



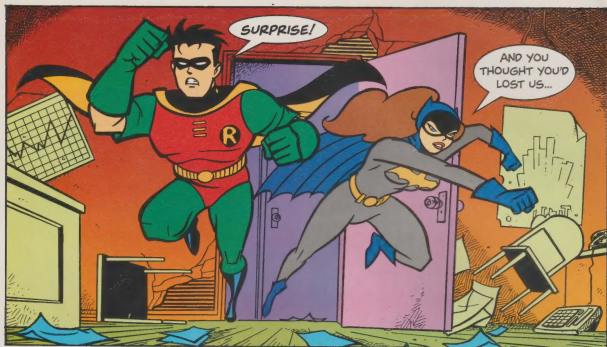
Their chase led them both across the city. But finally...

BATGIRL!
THEY'VE LEAD
YOU HERE,
TOO?



THIS
MUST BE THEIR
HIDEOUT...

A
BRILLIANT
DEDUCTION!

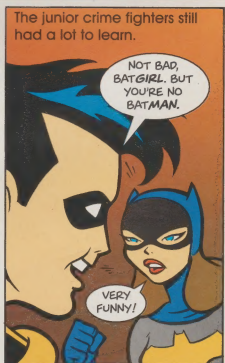


But the surprise was on them...



Batman had been watching the gang's hideout for days. He had been waiting for them to return.

IT'S ALL UNDER CONTROL.



The junior crime fighters still had a lot to learn.

NOT BAD, BATGIRL. BUT YOU'RE NO BATMAN.

VERY FUNNY!

THE END



SLAY IT WITH FLOWERS



Like a menacing black shark, the Batmobile veered off the highway and surged up the long gravel drive to the big mansion. It was night, and the car's headlights caught the heavy rain that had been falling since before dusk.

Behind the wheel, Batman glanced up at the huge mansion that rose before him, noticing the big gilt letter **H** over the porch, and the fancy marquee tents pitched on the lawn.

Police Commissioner Gordon was waiting for him on the steps of the house, looking miserable under a sagging umbrella.

"Evening, Batman," nodded Gordon as the Dark Knight approached.

"Your message said a matter of life and death, Commissioner. What's going on?"

Commissioner Gordon explained that the owner of the mansion, a wealthy tycoon called Horrigan, had been rushed to the hospital that evening in a coma. No one could tell what was wrong with him. All the signs pointed to poisoning, but no trace of poison could be found.

Given Horrigan's fortune, Gordon was sure some criminal scheme was behind it all, and had signalled for Batman in the hope that the detective could turn up some clues.

Entering the house, Batman and Gordon met with Philip Horrigan, the tycoon's son. He was very upset

about what had happened, but said that he had not received any kind of threatening note or demand for money.

Batman set to work, but it was as bad as Gordon said. No one could figure out what kind of poison had been used, how it had been administered or, most important of all, **why**. But Batman had his suspicions. He tried to piece together the last few days, to retrace the tycoon's steps to see if he could find anything.

The day before, there had been a huge family celebration, the wedding of Philip Horrigan and his young bride. That was why there were still marquees on the lawn. Batman had Gordon lay out all the wedding photographs on the mansion billiard table.



Only Batman's sharp eye would have noticed it...a photograph of the guests that also included one of the usherettes hired to look after the event. The uniformed woman was handing out carnation buttonholes to the male guests as they filed into the marquee.

"I suspected as much!" Batman said to Gordon. "That's Pamela Isley, AKA Poison Ivy. She knows more about toxins than anyone, particularly those derived from plants. Dressed as an usherette, she must have given Horrigan a poisoned buttonhole."

Later that night, with the rain still falling hard, one light remained lit in the windows of the Horrigan mansion. The Police and Batman had left hours before to continue their investigations. But Philip Horrigan had not gone to bed. The young man was in his father's study, talking in hushed, urgent tones on the telephone, arranging to deliver some money.

As Horrigan put the phone down, the study windows burst in as if blown by the wind, and the rain surged inside.

But a black shape landed in front of the windows facing the astonished young man. Batman's cowl and cape were slick with rain. His expression was grave.

"I was on the roof outside. I heard enough. You are being blackmailed, aren't you, Horrigan?"



Panic stricken, the young man leapt back, grabbing for a revolver in the desk draw "No! No! Get out! My father will be killed if you get involved!"

The revolver had barely left the drawer when a whirring Batarang clipped it safely out of Horrigan's hand.

"I don't want to hurt you," growled the Dark Knight. "You're as much a victim here as your father. And I can understand why you're desperate to save his life. But believe me, you **want** me involved. I can help you. If you try and settle this on your own, it can only end in disaster."

"But she said she would kill my father if I told you or the police!" cried Horrigan. "She said I'd only get the antidote to save his life if I kept quiet!" Philip was very upset.

"You must trust me" said Batman, "Now what has Poison Ivy told you to do?"

Poison Ivy was waiting at the arranged rendezvous to collect the money. The meeting place was a run-down warehouse in Gotham's wharf district. Two armed thugs were with her, bodyguards she'd hired from Gotham City's criminal underworld.

Philip Horrigan, nervous and carrying a briefcase, walked towards her across the old warehouse, skirting the puddles and the rainwater that dripped from the broken roof. Ivy and her gunsel stepped up to face him.

Poison Ivy smiled. "There's a good little boy. You've brought the money, I trust? Hand it over and your father can look forward to a speedy recovery."

Philip passed the case to one of the thugs. "Open it! Count it!" Poison Ivy instructed her minder impatiently.

The thug clicked open the case and the Batgas capsule inside exploded, pumping out choking fumes. Ivy and her thugs staggered back, coughing, surrounded by the swirling smoke. Philip, prepared, leaped back out of the way.

Batman dropped like a dark eagle from the rafters, a breathing mask across his nose and mouth. He landed in the middle of the gas

cloud and laid out the two choking thugs with precise, expert blows. Then he grabbed the helpless, tearful villainess and slapped the cuffs on her.

"Go and tell Gordon to send his men in," Batman told Philip. The young man ran off.

Ivy turned to Batman. "You fool," she coughed as the effects of the gas began to wear off. "By getting involved in this, you've as good as committed murder, Batman. The old man will die for certain! I'll never give up the antidote now."

Batman fixed her with a piercing stare. "I made sure I recovered the buttonhole from the trash. It was comparatively easy to identify the rare Amazonian flower you'd chosen, and therefore locate the correct antitoxin for its venom. Horrigan will live, no thanks to you and your vicious scheme."

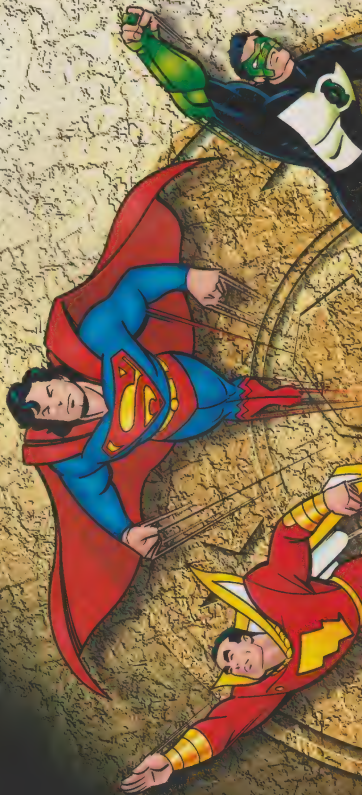
"Clever!" Poison Ivy cursed as the police arrived. "But you'll keep. One day, it'll be **you** my poison reaches!"

"I won't hold my breath waiting," Batman answered.



RELAY
I LOVE TO READ

BATMAN™



BATMANTM

WORKBOOK

ALPHABET ORDER

To use a dictionary, you need to know the order of the alphabet. Words which begin with A come before those that begin with B and so on. Use the alphabet below to put the names of these citizens of Gotham City in the correct order.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



The
JOKER



BATGIRL



The
RIDDLER



ALFRED



The
MAD HATTER



KILLER CROC



TWO-FACE



SCARECROW



CATWOMAN



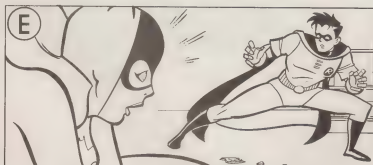
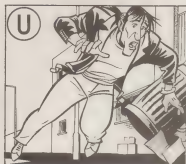
The
PENGUIN

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1)..... | 6)..... |
| 2)..... | 7)..... |
| 3)..... | 8)..... |
| 4)..... | 9)..... |
| 5)..... | 10)..... |



ALL MIXED UP

These pictures have been taken from this month's comic strip story. Put them in the **correct order (1-7)** and write the letter from each picture in the boxes below to find a word used in the story.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7

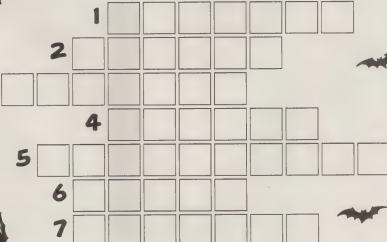

WHO'S HIDDEN?

Answer the clues below and write them in the boxes. If you answer them correctly, the grey boxes will spell out the name of a heroic crime-fighter.

1. Daughter's name of Gotham City's Police Commissioner.
2. 'Dad' means this.
3. Name for an outfit.
4. Commissioner James _____.
5. Place of education.
6. Act of wrong-doing.
7. Students attend these to learn.

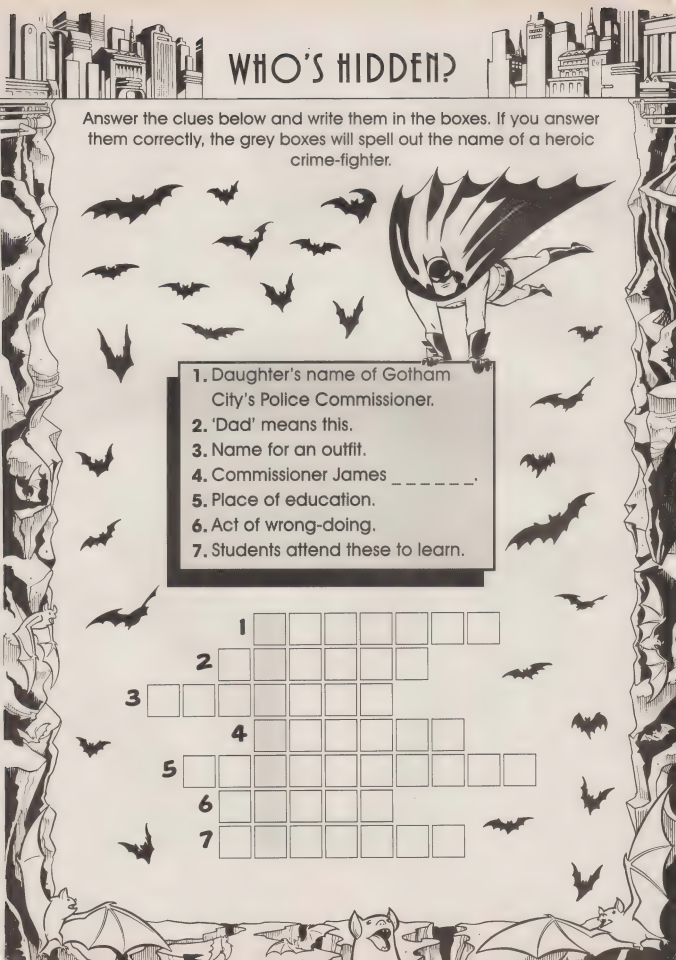
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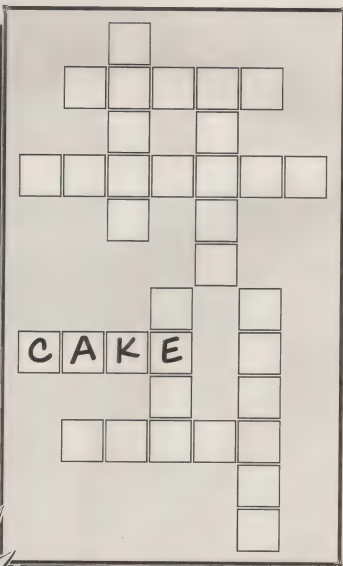
-
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 5. Place of education.
 6. Act of wrong-doing.
 7. Students attend these to learn.
-



WEDDING FIT

Here are some words connected with Philip Horrigan's wedding.
Fit the words listed into the blank grid you see below and then
tick the words off the list.

1. CAKE ☒
2. VEIL ☐
3. BELLS ☐
4. BRIDE ☐
5. GROOM ☐
6. DRESS ☐
7. GUESTS ☐
8. FLOWERS ☐

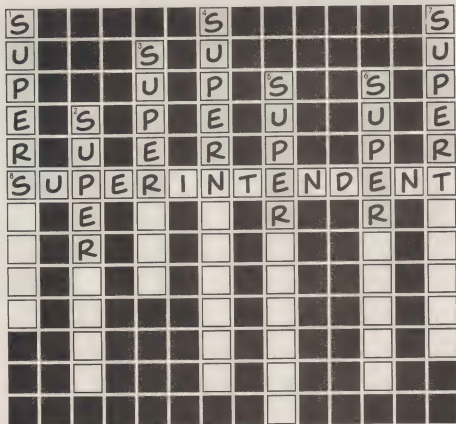


COLOURING





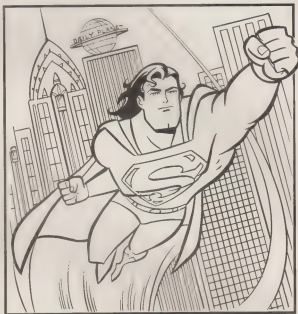
1. A speed faster than sound.
2. A famous performer.
3. Something of better quality.
4. Ghosts and other mysterious forces.
5. A very large shop.
6. A sort of boss over workers.
7. A large oil carrying ship.
8. A high ranking police officer. ✓



ORIGINS

Superman came from the planet Krypton. The things listed below (1-12) originally came from a particular country. The countries are also listed (A-L) but they are not in the right order. See if you can match each item with its original country (e.g. **1=L**). Then spot the **8** differences between the two pictures of Superman.

- 1 - KANGAROO**
- 2 - PAELLA**
- 3 - MANX CAT**
- 4 - CAMEMBERT**
- 5 - ANORAK**
- 6 - SAUNA**
- 7 - YOGA**
- 8 - SPAGHETTI**
- 9 - KIMONO**
- 10 - STETSON**
- 11 - KILT**
- 12 - WALTZ**



- A - INDIA**
- B - AMERICA**
- C - JAPAN**
- D - AUSTRIA**
- E - GREENLAND**
- F - SPAIN**
- G - SCOTLAND**
- H - ISLE OF MAN**
- I - FRANCE**
- J - FINLAND**
- K - ITALY**
- L - AUSTRALIA**



ANSWERS



ALPHABET ORDER

ALFRED

The MAD HATTER

BATGIRL

The **PENGUIN**

CATWOMAN

The RIDDLER

The JOKER

SCARECROW

KILLER CROC

TWO-FACE

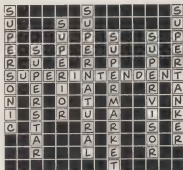


WHO'S HIDDEN?

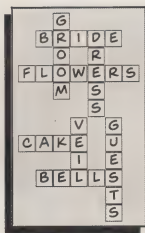
1 B A R B A R A
2 F A T H E R
3 C O S T U M E
4 G O R D O N
5 U N I V E R S I T Y
6 C R I M E
7 C L A S S E S



SUPERWORDS



WEDDING FIT



ORIGINS

1=L 7=A

$$2=F \quad 8=K$$
$$3=H \quad 9=C$$

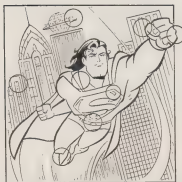
4=1 10=B

5=E 11=G

6=J 12=D



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





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“Pencils: Mike Parobeck; Inks: Rick Burchett; Colours: Kurt Goldsång

DYNAMIC DISPATCHES

HERE'S ANOTHER GREAT SELECTION OF PICTURES THAT YOU'VE SENT US. SORRY WE CAN'T FIT IN ALL YOUR MAIL IN DYNAMIC DISPATCHES, BUT KEEP WRITING IN AND WE WILL KEEP PRINTING AS MANY AS WE CAN!



BY JONATHAN LEE REEVES
THURTON



BY ADAM GHANI
KETTERING



MARIA SYTA
ROMFORD

~~TAKE THE
RUBBISH OUT~~

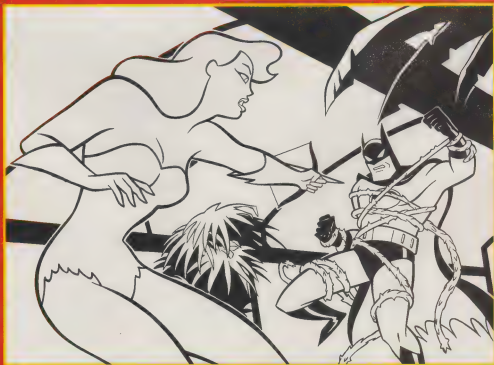


IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR LETTER,
JOKE, PICTURE OR PHOTOGRAPH
PRINTED IN I LOVE TO READ BATMAN,
SEND IT TO:
THE EDITOR
C/O DYNAMIC DISPATCHES
I LOVE TO READ BATMAN
139 KING STREET
LONDON W6 9JG
SORRY WE CANNOT WRITE BACK TO YOU
INDIVIDUALLY BUT WE WILL PRINT AS MANY OF
YOUR LETTERS AS WE CAN. PLEASE REMEMBER TO
INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE, ADDRESS AND **SASE** IF
YOU WANT YOUR **PHOTOS** RETURNED.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Batman's got a bit tied up! Can you spot the 8 differences between the top picture and the bottom picture of Batman with his deadly enemy, Poison Ivy?



Answers: 1. Poison Ivy's glove. 2. Batman leaf is missing. 3. One window is missing. 4. Poison Ivy's belt is black. 5. The leaf is missing. 6. The leaf is missing. 7. The leaf is missing. 8. The leaf is missing.

"I KNOW THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
SECRET."

THE ORIGIN OF SUPERMAN

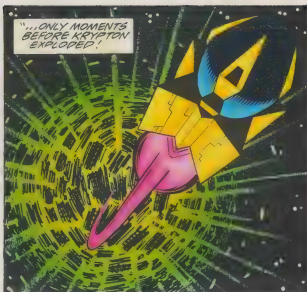
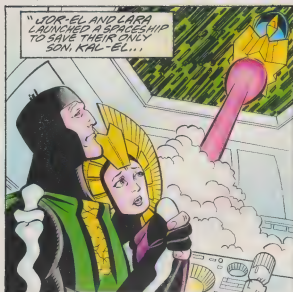
"IT BEGAN ON THE
PLANET KRYPTON."

"A WORLD OF
CRYSTALLINE
CITIES AND
SCIENTIFIC
WONDERS."

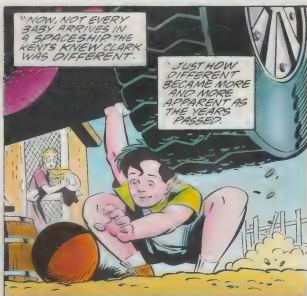
"A WORLD DOOMED BY
MYSTERIOUS UNDERGROUND
PRESSURES THAT THREATENED
TO TEAR IT APART."

KARL KEGEL - WRITER & INKER
MIKE PAROBECK - PENCILLER
ALBERT DE GUERMAN - LETTERER
TOM M'CRAW - COLORIST
CHARLES KOCHMAN - EDITOR

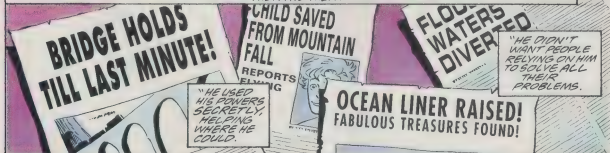
SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

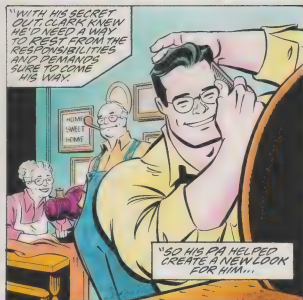
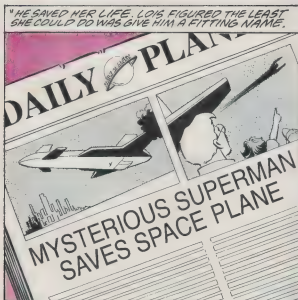
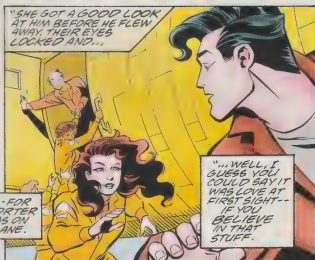
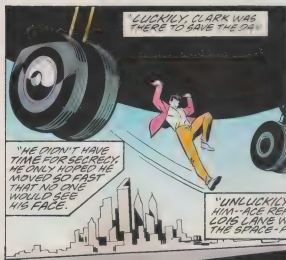
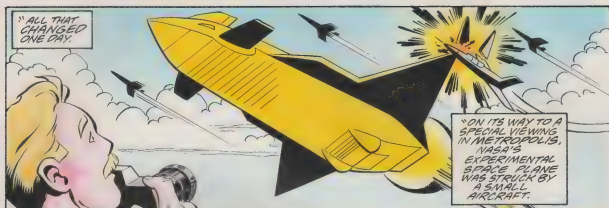


"THE SHIP LANDED ON THE KANSAS FARM OF JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT..."



"BY THE TIME HE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, CLARK HAD POWERS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN."







"...WHILE HIS MASEWED HIM A FAIRLY NICE SUIT.

"MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN IT."

LOOK!
UP IN THE
SKY!

IT'S
SUPERMAN!

"IT BECAME LOIS LANE'S MISSION IN LIFE TO INTERVIEW SUPERMAN, BUT SHE WAS SCOOPED BY MILD-MANNERED...

...CLARK KENT JOINED THE DAILY PLANET'S STAFF TODAY, LOIS.

A FINE REPORTER, LOIS-- AND A FAST TYPIST, TOO!

DAILY PLANET
THE EXCLUSIVE STORY ON SUPERMAN
By Clark Kent

"UNDERSTANDABLY, LOIS FOUND IT A BIT DIFFICULT TO FORGIVE AND FORGET."

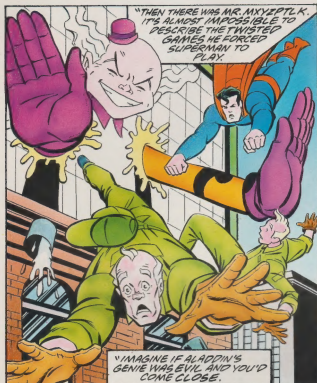
"...AW, LOIS-- THAT SUPERMAN STORY WAS ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO!"

TWENTY-ONE MONTHS, TWO WEEKS, FOUR DAYS, AND AN ODD NUMBER OF HOURS, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT, KENT!

"OF COURSE, LOIS-- PHENOMENAL REPORTER THAT SHE IS-- BROKE OTHER STORIES."

"LIKE HOW PIECES OF ROCK FROM SUPERMAN'S HOME PLANET-- KRYPTONITE-- COULD BE DEADLY TO HIM."

"SOMETHING HE LEARNED THE HARD WAY WHEN HE FOUGHT METALLO-- THE MAN WITH THE KRYPTONITE HEART."





IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF...



When the winged **Man-Bat** disappears after breaking into a research laboratory, Batman is called in to help locate the creature.

Find out what happens in the story, *Curse of the Bat*.



And **The Atom** will be back! A newspaper reporter is down on his luck getting an exciting story for his column. Little does he know that *A Big Story* is happening right under his nose!

Just when you think you're going to enjoy a nice, cultural night out at the opera, the clowns appear! At least that's what happens in the story, *A Night at the Opera*.



Play your cards right and you'll be dealt a big **JOKER** in next issue of **I Love to Read Batman!**

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Expiry date.....

Signature.....Date.....

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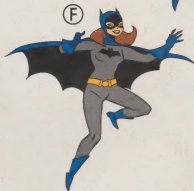
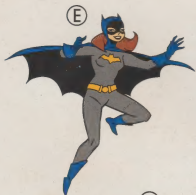
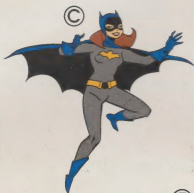
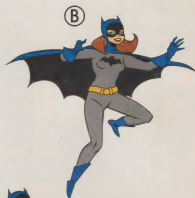


ODD ONE OUT



Each of these pictures of Batgirl has a double — except one!

Look at every picture very carefully and see if you can spot the odd one out.



Answers: A=I, B=F, C=G, D=H, E is the odd one out.